We claim:

1. A process for converting starch comprising mixing a base starch with an acid, drying the mixture to a substantially anhydrous state and heating the dried mixture for a time sufficient to produce a converted starch having a funnel flow viscosity of from about 5 to about 50 seconds.

2. The process of Claim 1 wherein the process is achieved via a fluidized bed conditions.

3. The process of Claim 2 wherein the dried mixture is heated for less than about one hour.

4. The process of Claim 3 wherein the process is conducted as a batch process.

5. The process of Claim 3 wherein the process is conducted as a continuous process.

6. A converted starch prepared according to the method of Claim 1.

7. A dry converted starch having a retained solubles content greater than that of the corresponding dry converted starch prepared via conventional aqueous acid conversion methods.

8. A product comprising the starch of Claim 6.

9. The product of Claim 8 wherein the product is selected from the group consisting of adhesives, encapsulation matrices, confectioneries and paper surface sizing applications.

10. A method of using the converted starch of Claim 4 to confer unique gelling and textural properties to products.

11. A product comprising the starch of Claim 7.